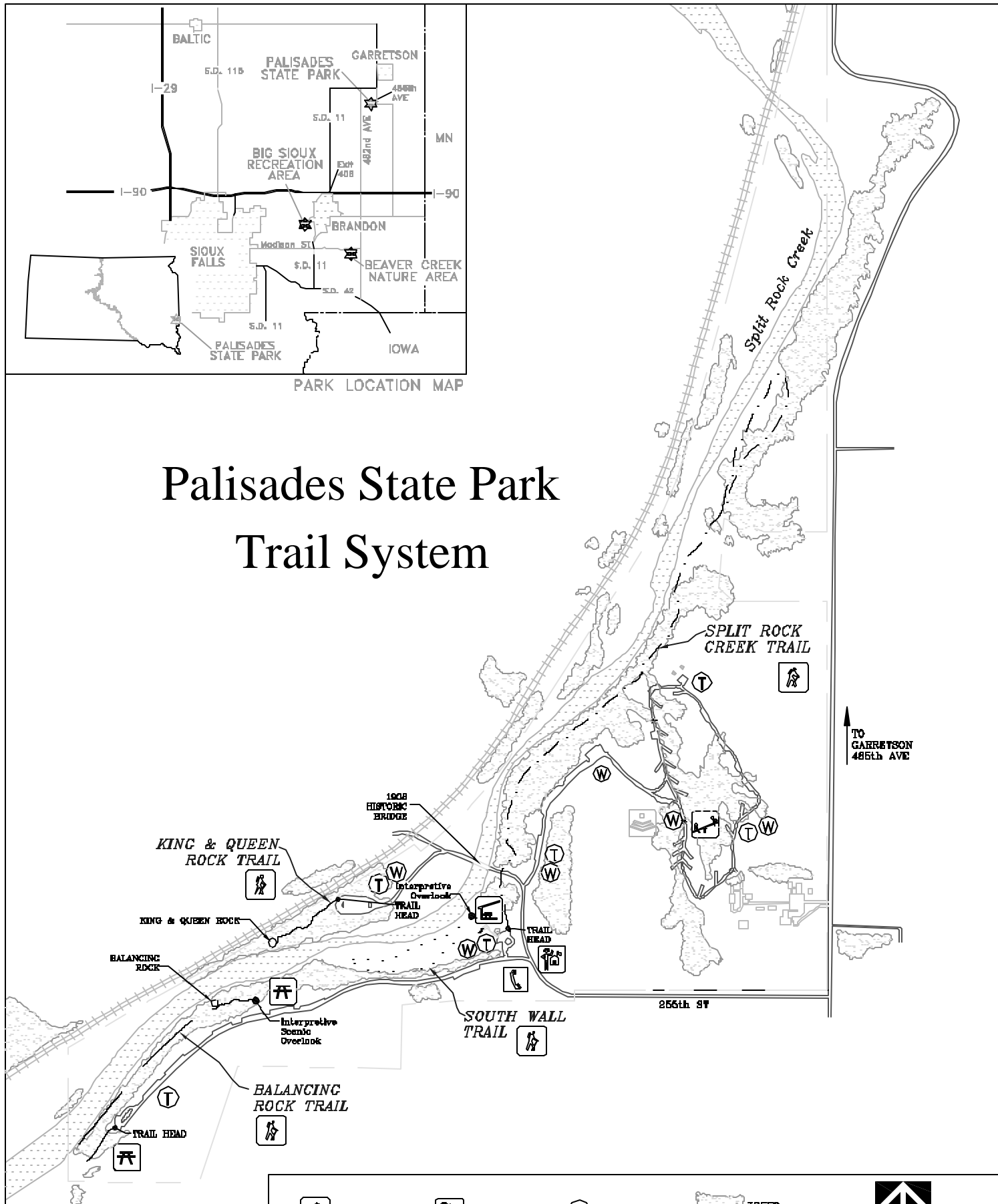


PARK LOCATION MAP

Palisades State Park Trail System

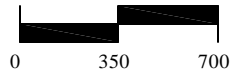


TO
GARRETSON
485th AVE

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| HIKING TRAIL | ENTRANCE STATION | VAULT TOILET | TREES |
| PLAYGROUND | AMPHITHEATER | DRINKING WATER | |
| TELEPHONE | PICNIC SHELTER | PICNIC AREA | |



NORTH
SCALE IN FEET



Date: 7/11/02

Palisades State Park

Balancing Rock Trail

Type of trail: Hiking

Trail surface: Dirt and mowed grass

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (stairs and steps – some steep sections)

Fee required: Park Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: .6 mile

Location of the trailhead: Turnaround parking lot and end of upper road

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Toilet, nearby parking, picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: Picnic tables

Will there be interpretive information available: Yes, spur trail continues east of Balancing Rock to scenic overlook platform. Interpretive sign about old town of Palisades and flour mill operation.

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.:
Convenience stores in Garretson – two miles north of park

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:
Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:
Ambulance – 911
Sheriff – 911
Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: No

Palisades State Park

Balancing Rock Trail

Starting as a gentle mowed path along the edge of Split Rock Creek, the trail soon climbs a set of steep steps, revealing another unique example of Mother Nature's artistry. Balancing Rock is a quartzite column that seems to defy gravity as it stands perched on the wall overlooking the creek. Proceeding east from Balancing Rock, the trail continues to a mowed area and on to a scenic interpretive overlook. From this vantage point, you will get a nice overview of the King and Queen Rock formations and also view a display which illustrates the layout and operation of the old Patton Mill, which operated during the late 1800s and drew its power from the waters of the creek. The trail then returns along the road to the road to the trailhead parking lot.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Although quite tempting, jumping or diving from the rock formations or structures into Split Rock Creek is against the law and carries a heavy fine. Please be very careful when hiking near any of the formations and outcrops.

Palisades State Park

King and Queen Rock Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, interpretive/viewing nature, interpretive history and rock climbing access

Trail surface: Gravel/limestone and dirt

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (some rock steps/steep sections)

Fee required: Park Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: .2 mile

Location of the trailhead: At turnaround, lower parking lot across old historic iron bridge

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, parking and picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available:

Yes, interpretive plaque about historic townsite of Palisades

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Garretson – two miles north

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes, in some locations

This short trail takes you to the heart of the most dramatic geologic formations in the park. The sheer vertical walls of Sioux quartzite appear to rise from the waters of Split Rock Creek and illustrate the effects of millions of years of erosion and weathering. The trail also passes near the site of the original Palisades town site and Patton's flour mill. A bronze plaque tells about the town's brief history, before being relocated to present day Garretson. The rock formations are popular with rock climbers.

Palisades State Park

South Wall Trail

Type of trail: Hiking and rock climbing access

Trail surface: Dirt and mowed grass

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (some slippery rock-steps and stairs - steep sections)

Fee required: Park Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: .4 mile

Location of the trailhead: At picnic shelter just past entrance station

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, parking, picnic shelter and picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available: Yes, interpretive overlook, which discusses the unique geology of the area

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Garretson – two miles north

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: No

Palisades State Park

South Wall Trail

This trail starts behind the picnic shelter near a scenic interpretive overlook. The display includes information about the unique geology of the park, specifically the Sioux quartzite formations and local pipestone deposits. The trail then follows the creek, past the site of the old mill dam and on to a popular rock climbing area called the South Wall. The vertical wall presents varied challenges to climbers of all abilities. The trail then ascends by way of a set of stairs and steps through the middle of a large fracture in the rock giving a close-up view of the quartzite cliffs and dramatic landscape. The trail returns by way of a mowed path and woodland trail to the picnic shelter. Watch for an ever-changing display of woodland wildflowers along this trail.

Palisades State Park

Split Rock Creek Trail

Type of trail: Hiking

Trail surface: Dirt

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (some steps and stairs - steep sections)

Fee required: Parks Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: 1.5 miles

Location of the trailhead: At picnic shelter just past entrance station

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available: Not at this time but plan to add

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Garretson – two miles north

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Name, address, and phone numbers of nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes, in some locations

The longest trail in the park allows adventurers to explore the remote northern end of the park. Beginning at the picnic shelter, the trail winds its way through the woods, making use of stairs and steps to navigate a short section of steep terrain, passes the campground and cabin area, and finally levels out along the shores of Split Rock Creek. The primary feature of this trail is the wide variety of plant and animal life to be seen. Wildflowers and songbirds are abundant. Evidence of beaver activity can readily be seen. And quiet places exist to sit and reflect on the nature world around you.